has little role to play. However, Government of India has been extending all possible help deemed necessary to the Indian exporters in all such cases.

Jammu and Kashmir as a Tax Free Zone

4996. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to turn Jammu and Kashmir and also Uttaranchal into a "Tax Free Zone" for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have approved on 24th April, 2002 a new industrial policy and other concessions which include, *inter-alia*, extension of excise concession, investment subsidy and setting up of Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation etc., for implementation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

A new industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of Uttaranchal is separately under consideration.

Production of virginia tobacco

4997. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of tobacco for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the target fixed by the Tobacco Board the growers were made to pay a penalty of Rs. 15 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has fixed the target of production detrimental to the interests of the growers for the years, 2002-2003; and

(e) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to safeguard the intertest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Flue Cured

Virginia (FCV) tobacco produced by Karnataka is known as neutral filler variety. The data on production for the past three years is as follows:

Year	Crop size fixed (Million Kgs.)	Actual production (Million kgs.)
1999-2000	40.00	45.20
2000-2001	25.00	41.98
2001-2002	38.07	57.68

(c) The Government had levied an extra fee of Rs. 2.00 per kg. and 15% of the value on the unauthorised tobacco produced by the unregistered growers of Karnataka in the year 2001. The fee levied on the excess tobacco produced by the registered growers was Rs. 2.00 per kg. plus 5%.

(d) and (e) The crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board for cultivation of FCV tobacco by registered growers in Karnataka for the 2002 crop season is based on a careful assessment of the demand both in the domestic and international market, the existing stock position and the need to help the growers secure remunerative prices.

Export potential of Rajasthan

4998. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to examine export potential of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of exportable items of Rajasthan;

(c) the details of quantity of these items exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to promote exports from Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Central Government interacts with the State Governments on a regular basis in order to evaluate potential of exports and to boost export production and exports.

(b) The main items of exports from Rajasthan are textiles, marble, electronic goods, handicrafts, leather goods, precious and semi-precious stones, carpets.